

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 HA-05
/078 W

-----019336 221255Z /53

R 221045Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1447
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3502

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: NEW SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY CHIEF NAMED

REF: PRETORIA 3482 (NOTAL)

1. THE PRESS REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED THAT MR. ALEX VAN WYK, 58, WOULD SUCCEED GENERAL HENDRIK VAN DEN BERGH AS SECRETARY FOR SECURITY INTELLIGENCE AND HEAD OF THE BUREAU FOR STATE SECURITY. VAN WYK IS A 38-YEAR VETERAN OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE AND INTELLIGENCE WORK CURRENTLY SERVING UNDER VAN DEN BERGH AS CHIEF DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY INTELLIGENCE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ACCOUNT, VAN WYK WAS BORN IN HONDEKLIPBAAI, CAPE PROVINCE, AS THE SON OF A SHEEP FARMER, AND JOINED THE POLICE IN 1940. HE HAS EARNED BA AND LLB DEGREES BY CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA. VAN WYK WAS FIRST STATIONED AT HILLBROW, THEN BECAME STATION COMMANDER AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT ATTAINING COMMISSIONED RANK. HE THEN SERVED AT GERMISTON AND LATER HEIDELBERG WHERE HE WAS DISTRICT COMMANDANT. IN 1963, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO SECURITY POLIC HEADQUARTERS IN PRETORIA AND IN 1969 JOINED THE NEW BUREAU FOR STATE SECURITY UNDER GENERAL VAN DEN BERGH.

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2. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT, VAN WYK STATED THAT THE BIGGEST THREAT FACING SOUTH AFRICA WAS INTERNAL SUBVERSION AND NOT EXTERNAL PRESSURE. HE SAID THAT "WHAT WE MUST WORK ON IS TO MAKE OUR OWN PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY BLACK PEOPLE, CONTENT AND SATISFIED".
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PINT, SF, (VAN WYK, ALEX)
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